



ADVOCACY

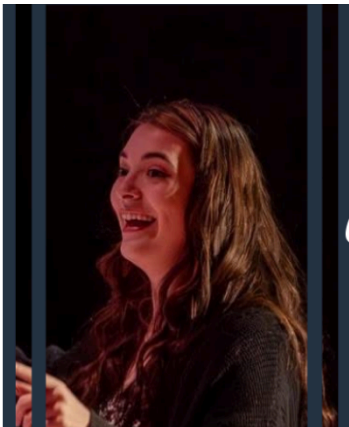
What is the PMEA Advocacy Council?

The PMEA Advocacy Council champions the value of music education and works to ensure every student in Pennsylvania has access to high-quality music instruction.

Our work includes:

- Promoting music education through outreach and storytelling
- Sharing policy updates to inform and resources to equip music educators
- Building connections with education leaders and decision-makers statewide

To be effective, your district's advocacy rep **needs** to hear from YOU. Whether you're facing a challenge, celebrating a win, or want to get involved, your voice shapes our work—and makes music education stronger for all.



Meet YOUR PMEA Advocacy Chairperson



Name: Michaela Madaio

District: 10

School/Organization & Role: Allentown School District MS Band/Orchestra Teacher

Years in Music Education: 3

Favorite Advocacy Tip/Quote: "Tell me, and I forget. Show me, and I remember. Involve me, and I understand."

[908.235.9015](tel:908.235.9015)

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pmea.net/advocacy

Policy Pulse

Update from Mark Despotakis



As we continue to operate with no budget in Pennsylvania, please let your advocacy representative know of any **specific** instances where a school (LEA or higher ed) has

said they will have to take (or has already taken) a certain action (or inaction).

The key word is **specific**. If you know of something that has happened or has publicly been noted that it will happen, please share that directly with your advocacy representative!



Learn about your legislators, how to contact them, and participate in national campaigns to support music education:

<https://nafmeorg.quorum.us/campaigns/>

Want more information? Check out our advocacy websites.

NAFME



SCAN ME

PMEA



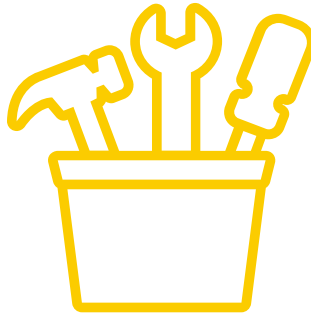
SCAN ME



ADVOCACY

Be Ready: Timely Advocacy Tips & Tools

Each season, we'll spotlight a few resources from PMEA's Marketing Toolkit and/or NAFME's Resource library to support local action and connect you to big picture efforts—whether you're just getting started or ready to deepen your impact.



Inventory for Educator/Administrator Collaboration

Proactive Scripts to Increase Program Visibility/Awareness

Video Content



Text Resource



Grow as an Advocate

Professional development picks to elevate your advocacy efforts.

Micro Moves, Major Impact

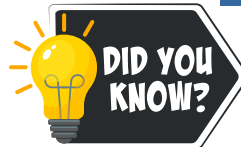


Bite-sized advocacy efforts that add up (and take less than 30 minutes):

1. **Invite admin. to your next performance**, but include one student quote (1–2 sentences) about what performing means to them. **Personal voices make the invite feel human**, not just informational.
2. **Snap a candid photo during rehearsal** — a student helping another, a section laughing together, or a “before the curtain rises” moment — and **share it** (with permission) on your school’s newsletter or staff update.
3. During **conferences**, share one quick note celebrating a musical skill their child has gained (or a resource to help them grow). **Visibility builds support!**

Share Your Story with PMEA!

PMEA compiles statements on how music education has positively impacted and enriched the lives of current and former students to be shared in PMEA News and Social Media. Share your story and encourage others to share by clicking or scanning below!



Music Prepares the Brain for Achievement

Students who study music develop stronger brain pathways for math, leading to significantly higher algebra scores in high school because music training strengthens the same areas of the brain used for complex math processing. *(Helmrich, 2010)*

IN SEARCH OF: Advocacy in Action

We're looking for real-life examples of advocacy wins to feature in upcoming issues. If your district has seen growth, added support, or any advocacy breakthrough, let us know!

